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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 7 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office in Geneva,
addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I am addressing you in regard to the statement given by the Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Bulgaria, Mr. Marin Raykov, at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human
Rights

Although it is not new that the Bulgarian Government is interfering in internal affairs of
the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, nevertheless, the statement by the Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria exceeds all bounds of tolerance. By the content of his statement, the
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria has contradicted declarations given by the
Government of Bulgaria on an alleged wish for good neighbourly relations in the Balkans, that is
between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The statement by Mr. Raykov is the most drastic example of
interference in internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and certainly does not
contribute to further promotion of bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia most strongly rejects the interference in its internal
affairs on the part of any country and thereby rejects the statement of the Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria at the Commission.

It is highly unacceptable that the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria has
taken the liberty of teaching someone a lesson about democracy in general and in particular
about internal relations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. How can the Government of a
country preach about democracy when it has been the accomplice in the barbaric and fascist

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aggression of the North Atlantic alliance against the independent and sovereign Federal Republic of Yugoslavia? There is no doubt that this was a highly undemocratic act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law. What is the democracy that the Bulgarian Government is calling for when it participated in the barbaric killing of innocent civilians in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia? Should we conclude that the evils of the past of the Bulgarian Government and its aspirations from the period from 1941 to 1945 are resurfacing?

The statement of the Bulgarian representative at the Commission is an attempt by the Government of Bulgaria to associate itself with objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aggressor against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, that is to say to condone new fascism through unparalleled subservience to the policy of arrogance, neo-colonialism and diktat by the administration of the United States. Such subservience is nothing new for the Bulgarian Government. It is just enough to recall the period from 1941 to 1945 and the period of the Inform bureau resolution in 1948.

It is also highly unacceptable that the Bulgarian Government gives itself the right to teach lessons to any country about rights of minorities when it is a well-known fact that Bulgaria has never recognized the existence of any minority on its territory. On the contrary, the well-known policy of the Bulgarian Government is not only that it does not recognize any minority rights, but that it also carries out the policy of assimilation, which is equal to genocide.

The statement by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria at the Commission on Human Rights represents a high level of hypocrisy and subservience of the Bulgarian Government in regard to the ongoing aggression by NATO, led by the administration of the United States, towards the sovereign and independent Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and basic principles of international law, humanity and democracy.

I would appreciate very much if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Commission under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Branko BRANKOVIC

Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
